

Brief of Downfall

By: United States Army Forces, Pacific, [1945]

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1945

Report Documentation Page			Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188		
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1. REPORT DATE 1945		2. REPORT TYPE N/A		3. DATES COVERED -	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Brief of Downfall				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) United States Army Forces, Pacific				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release, distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES JFSC - WW II Declassified Records.					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT SAR	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 10	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			

21 June 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF, S&P GROUP:

SUBJECT: Brief of DOWNFALL.

1. Attached is a brief of DOWNFALL, which is General MacArthur's strategic plan for operations in the Japanese Archipelago. The plan deals with the broad strategic aspect and covers both OLYMPIC and CORONET.
2. General Hull has already been briefed on this plan.
3. It is recommended that this plan should be released to ANSCOL after the Kanto Plain has been secured.

MAX S. JOHNSON
Colonel, GSC
Chief, Strategy Section

Classification changed to

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by authority of _____

by _____ date _____

~~TOP SECRET~~

BRIEF OF "DOWNFALL"

1. Scope.

DOWNFALL is General MacArthur's strategic plan for operations in the Japanese Archipelago. It constitutes the basis for directives for operations to force the unconditional surrender of Japan by seizure of vital objectives in the Japanese Archipelago.

The plan outlines:

- a. Existing directives.
- b. Assumptions concerning enemy intentions.
- c. Operations.
- d. Logistics.

It gives the broad outlines of Operations OLYMPIC and CORONET but does not go into details (see Map A).

2. Phases.

The plan visualizes attainment of the assigned objectives by two successive operations.

a. OLYMPIC - To advance our land-based air forces into Southern Kyushu in order to support the second, a knock-out blow to the enemy's heart in the Tokyo area.

b. CORONET - A major joint assault supported by the massed air and naval power in the Pacific to destroy hostile forces and seize the Tokyo - Yokohama Area.

c. Subsequent operations continued and extended until such organized resistance in the Japanese Archipelago ceases.

3. Enemy Forces.

OLYMPIC

3 Divs in Northern Kyushu

3 Divs in Southern Kyushu

8 to 10 Divs total enemy commitment

2,500 enemy aircraft.

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CORONET

21 Divs in Honshu

14 Divs employed in Kanto Plain area.

Hostile capability for air action reduced to suicide attacks of uncertain proportions at an early phase of the operations.

4. Own Forces.OLYMPIC

Assault - 12 Divs

Follow-up - 2 Divs (including 1 A/B Div)

Area reserve - 3 Divs

If required, divisions set up for CORONET could be used in OLYMPIC and replaced from strategic reserve in USA.

Air Forces - see Map A.

CORONET

Assault - 14 Divs (including 2 Armored Divs)

Follow-up - 11 Divs (including 1 A/B Div)

Area reserve - 3 Divs

Strategic reserve in USA - 4 Divs per month beginning June 1946.

Air Forces - see Map A.

5. Command and Logistics.OLYMPIC

Sixth Army

Mounted - Philippines - 9 Divs

Okinawa - 1 Div

Marianas - 1 Div

Hawaii - 3 Divs

CORONET

Eighth and Tenth Armies

Mounted - Philippines - 15 Divs

Okinawa - 4 Divs

Kyushu - 4 Divs

Marianas - 2 Divs

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1ST REPUBLICS

DOWN

SEA OF OKHOTSK

CINCPAC STRA
FOR OPERATIO
JAPANESE ARC
(Pursuant to JCS 1259
and WX 87938,

GULF OF TARTARY

SAKHALIN I

KARAFUTO

MANCHURIA

CHISHIMA RETTO
(KURIL ISLANDS)

Enemy employed
in CORONET

JAPAN SEA

YELLOW SEA

Total Enemy
committed to
OLYMPIC

CHOSSEN
(KOREA)

Oki Retto

Hachijo Jima

Shikoku

1 MAR - 12 GPS
1 JUN - 50 GPS

CORONET

ASSAULT

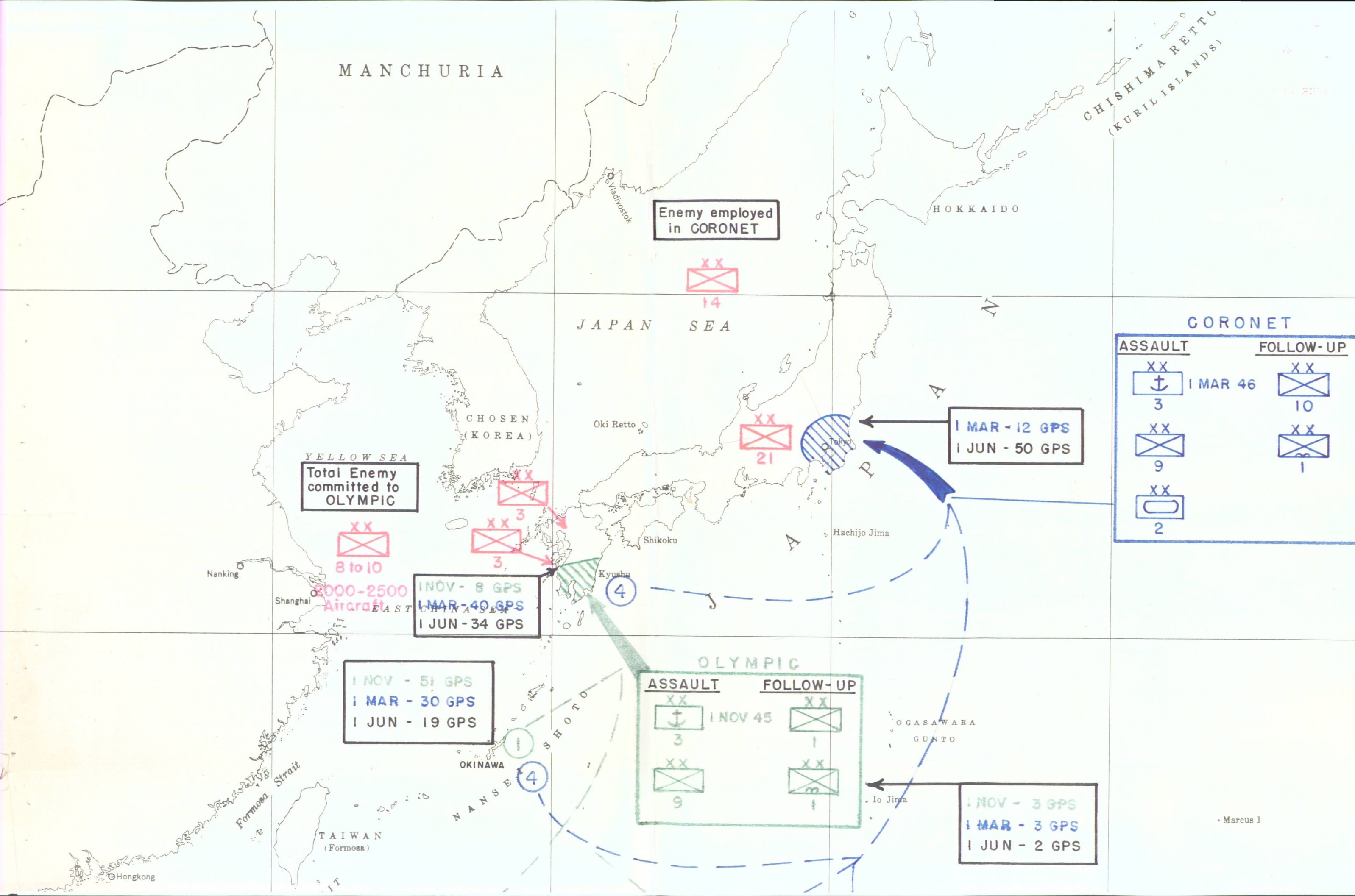
FOLLOW-UP

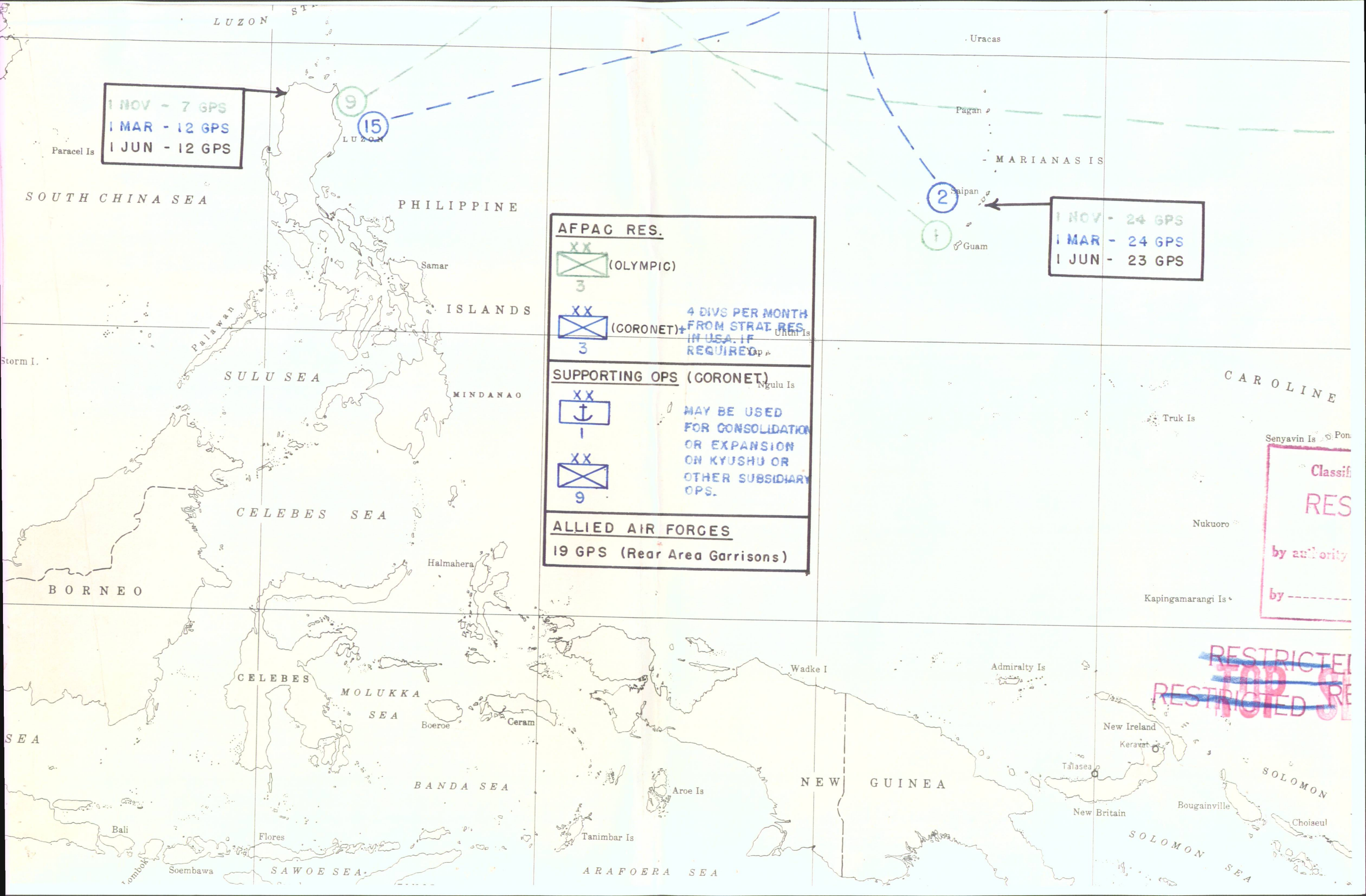
XX
⚓
3
XX
9
XX
2

1 MAR 46

XX
10
XX
1

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1 NOV - 7 GPS
1 MAR - 12 GPS
1 JUN - 12 GPS

1 NOV - 24 GPS
1 MAR - 24 GPS
1 JUN - 23 GPS

AFPAC RES.

XX (OLYMPIC)
3

XX (CORONET)
3

4 DIVS PER MONTH
FROM STRAT RES.
IN USA. IF
REQUIRED

SUPPORTING OPS (CORONET)

XX
1

XX
9

MAY BE USED
FOR CONSOLIDATION
OR EXPANSION
ON KYUSHU OR
OTHER SUBSIDIARY
OPS.

ALLIED AIR FORCES
19 GPS (Rear Area Garrisons)

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by authority
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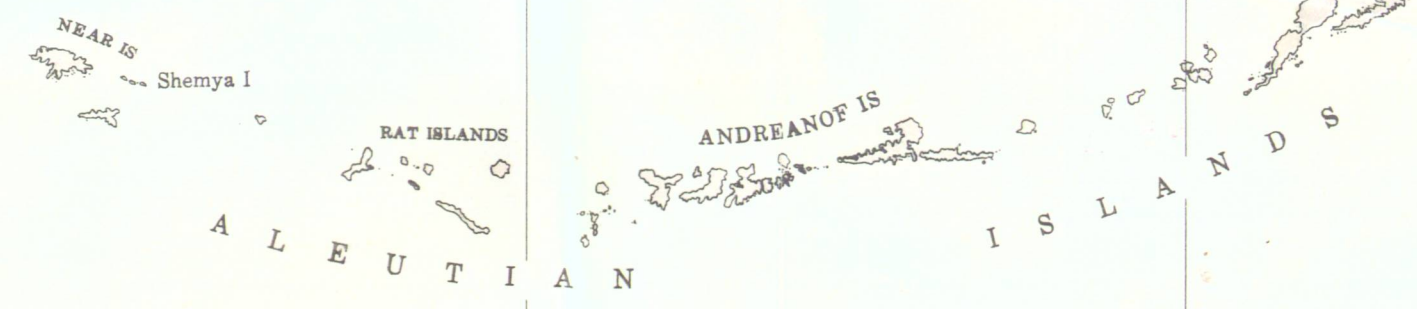
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Komandorski Is

STRATEGIC PLAN
RATIONS IN
ARCHIPELAGO
1259/4, 3 April 1945
138, 26 May 1945)

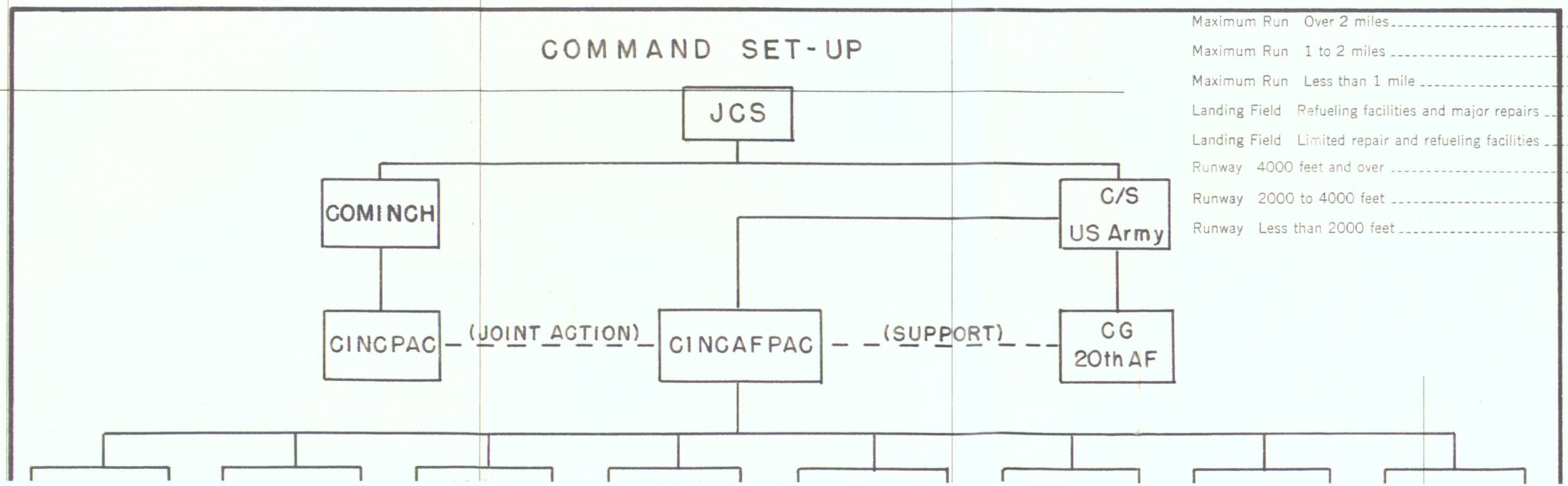
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LEGEND

- Seaplane Anchorage Ramp, hauling out facilities, refueling facilities, and major repairs.....
- Seaplane Anchorage Limited repair and refueling facilities
- Emergency Seaplane Anchorage Limited or no facilities.....
- Maximum Run Over 2 miles.....
- Maximum Run 1 to 2 miles
- Maximum Run Less than 1 mile
- Landing Field Refueling facilities and major repairs
- Landing Field Limited repair and refueling facilities
- Runway 4000 feet and over
- Runway 2000 to 4000 feet
- Runway Less than 2000 feet

COMMAND SET-UP





LEGEND

- Seaplane Anchorage Ramp, hauling out facilities, refueling facilities, and major repairs
- Seaplane Anchorage Limited repair and refueling facilities
- Emergency Seaplane Anchorage Limited or no facilities
- Maximum Run Over 2 miles
- Maximum Run 1 to 2 miles
- Maximum Run Less than 1 mile
- Landing Field Refueling facilities and major repairs
- Landing Field Limited repair and refueling facilities
- Runway 4000 feet and over
- Runway 2000 to 4000 feet
- Runway Less than 2000 feet

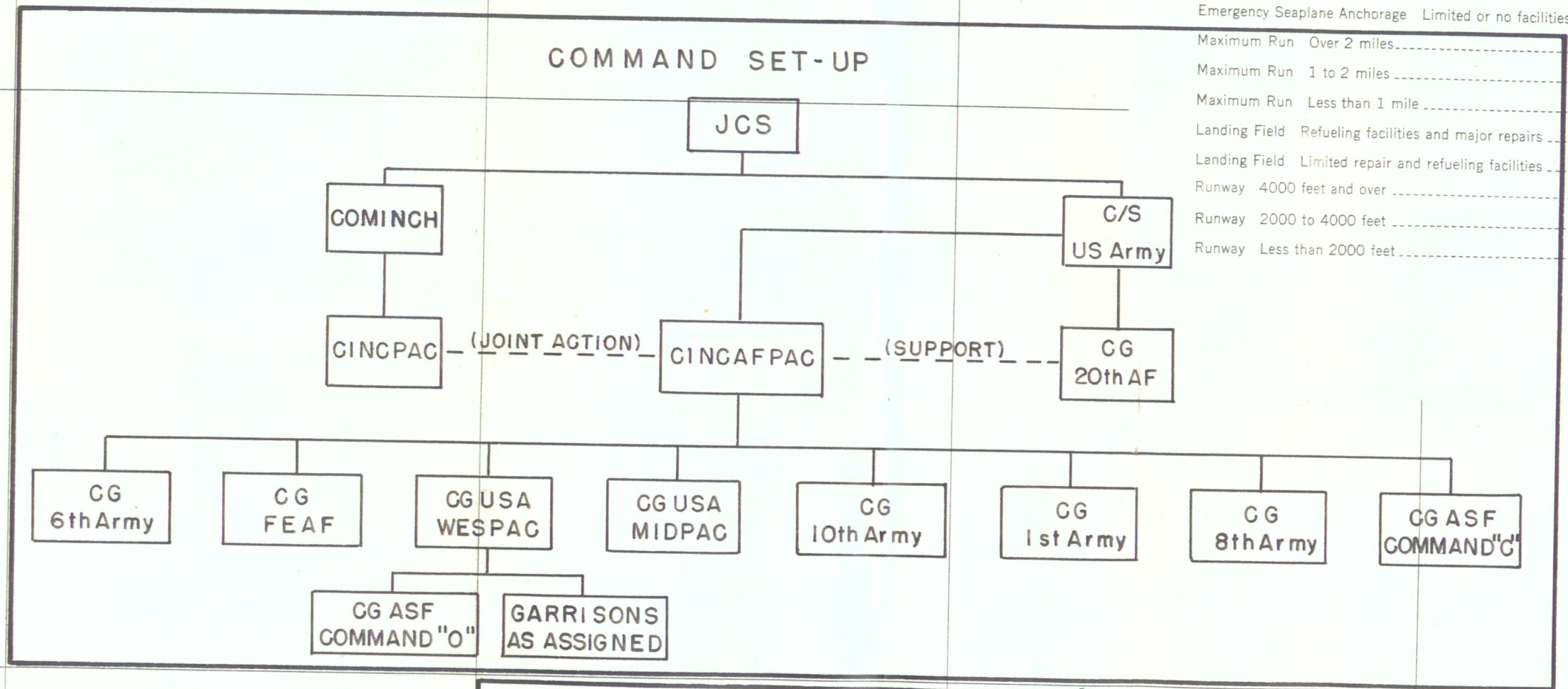
NET FOLLOW-UP

XX

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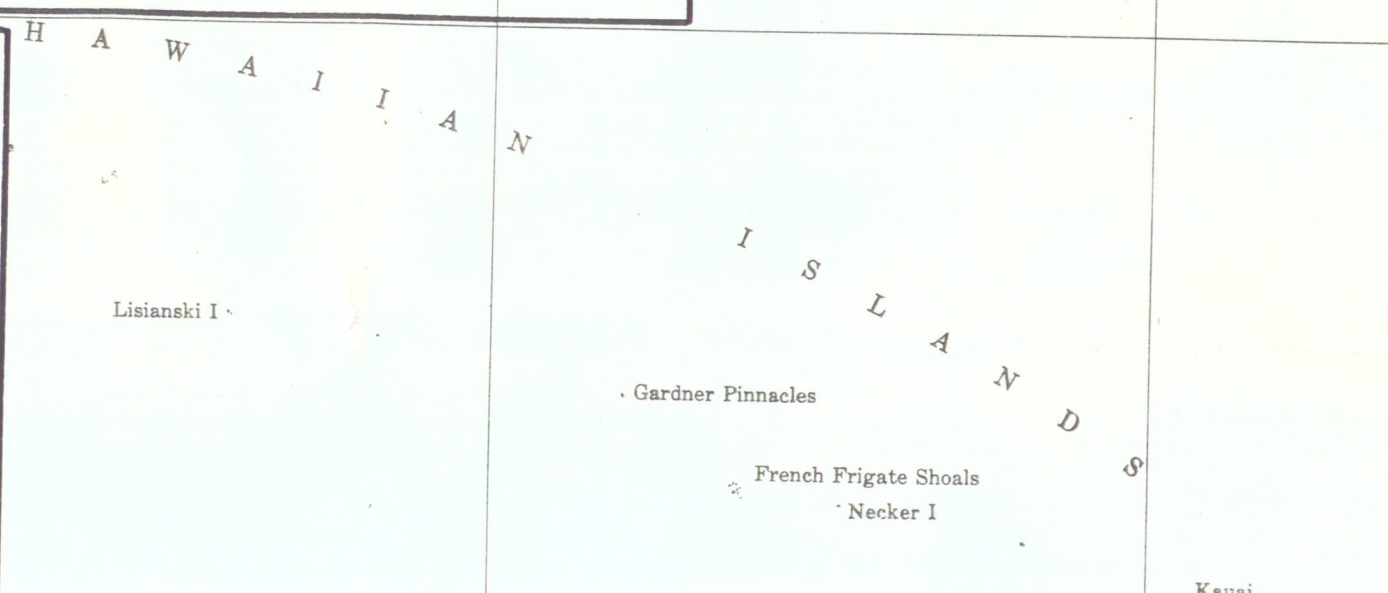
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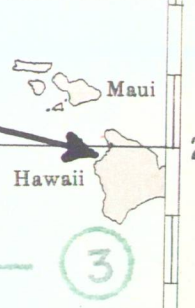
<u>FORCES</u>			
<u>OLYMPIC</u>			
6th Army	} Assault }	14 DIVS	
9 Divs			
3 Mar Divs			
1 Div	} Follow-up }		
1 A/B Div			
3 Divs - AFPAC Res.			
<u>CORONET</u>			
AFPAC	}		
8th Army			
10th Army			
9 Divs			

Kure ^a
Midway



3	Mar Divs	} Assault	} 25	DIVS
2	Armd Divs			
1st	Army	} Follow-up		
10	Divs			
1	A/B Div			
3	Divs	- AFPAC Res.		

1 NOV - 1 GP
1 MAR - 1 GP
1 JUN - 1 GP



CONCEPT

OLYMPIC
Initial assaults seize and develop KAGOSHIMA WAN and ARIAKE WAN as ports of entry. Occupy area as far north as general line TSUNO - SENDAI.

CORONET
Initially establish local air support and drive into KANTO PLAIN from outlying beaches while defences of approaches to TOKYO-WAN and Northern SAGAMI BAY are reduced by intensive naval and air action. Then occupation of TOKYO-YOKOHAMA area and rest of KANTO PLAIN.

MARSHALL ISLANDS
Kwajalein
Jaluit

ISLANDS

NOTE:

- In event commitment for DOWNFALL exceeds forces projected, build-up of 4 divs per month from USA begins June 1946.
- Air Redeployments:-
1 Nov 45 - 1 Jun 46 - 47 Gps
- Ultimate VHB Garrisons:-
Marianas - 20 Gps
Ryukyus - 12 Gps

Tarawa
GILBERT ISLANDS

Howland I
Baker I

Palmyra I
Washington I
Fanning I
Christmas I

Nauru
Ocean I

ISLANDS

PHOENIX ISLANDS

ELLICE

ISLANDS

NE ISLANDS
Ponape
Kusate
RESTRICTED
Priority of
date

RESTRICTED
SECRET

ISLANDS
Malaita